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FM SALT DEL/VIENNA

TO THE WHITE HOUSE

ZEM

T O P S E C R E T / SENSITIVE / EXCLUSIVE EYES ONLY 281820Z JAN 72
1972 JAN 28 PM 2 22

FM AMBASSADOR GERARD SMITH, SALT DELEGATION, VIENNA 128
TO THE WHITE HOUSE, EYES ONLY FOR DR. HENRY A. KISSINGER.
JANUARY 28, 1972

DURING PRIVATE CONVERSATION TODAY, AND IN ACCORDANCE
WITH AUTHORITY IN STATE 679, I INDICATED TO SEMENOV THAT UNLIKE
THE CASE WITH ICBM FREEZE, THERE WAS SOME FLEXIBILITY IN U.S.
POSITION ON STARTING DATE FOR SLBM FREEZE. HE ASKED FOR
CLARIFICATION. I MERELY ADDED THAT SLBM FREEZE MIGHT START
SOMEWHAT LATER THAN ICBM FREEZE. SEMENOV SAID HE UNDERSTOOD.

ACCORDING TO INTERPRETER KRIMER'S TRANSCRIPT, SEMENOV
THEN SAID, "PERHAPS THIS QUESTION WOULD TO SOME EXTENT BE
TOUCHED UPON IN OUR MEETING ON FEBRUARY 3 (A FINAL SMITH-
SEMENOV SESSION). HE RECALLED SOME WORDS OF ONE OF HIS
SENIOR INSTRUCTORS. HE HAD TOLD HIM ON ONE OCCASION, 'YOU
KNOW, SOME PROBLEMS HAVE A TENDENCY TO BE SELF-SETTLING. HERE
LIFE ITSELF SPEAKS FOR ITSELF AND THERE IS NO NEED FOR ANY GREAT
HUSTLE AND BUSTLE.' THESE WERE THE WORDS THAT HE RECALLED. HE
BELIEVED THAT IN THE TALK ON FEBRUARY 3 WE WOULD GET BACK TO
THIS QUESTION. SOMEHOW HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT HERE WE
WOULD EVENTUALLY BE ABLE TO ARRIVE AT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE
POINT OF VIEW." AT THIS POINT, SEMENOV ROSE AND MADE CLEAR
THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION.

IN VIEW OF VAGUENESS IN SEMENOV'S REMARKS, I AM NOT
REPORTING THEM YET IN NORMAL CHANNELS. THE FEBRUARY 3
MEETING SHOULD PERMIT MORE AUTHORITATIVE REPORTING.

WARM REGARDS.

GERARD SMITH

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#2803

MORI/CDF per C05138219

~~TOP SECRET SENSITIVE~~

EYES ONLY

State Dept. review completed

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